

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

May 27, 2020

Mr. Harold Parker
Federal Co-Chair
Northern Borders Regional Commission
33 Pleasant Street, Suite 102
Concord, NH 03301

Dear Mr. Parker,

I am writing to express my strong support for Monadnock Economic Development Corporation's (MEDC) application to the Northern Border Regional Commission's Economic & Infrastructure Development grant program to fund construction costs related to the Keene State College (KSC) Business Partnership Hub ("the Hub").

The Hub offers a strategic opportunity to address long-standing economic challenges in Keene and Cheshire County. When built on the KSC campus, the Hub will provide facilities to host education and training focused on optics engineering and precision manufacturing. Formal training at the site, utilizing industry-provided equipment, will be complemented by a makerspace providing professionals and hobbyists access to fabrication tools and equipment. This facility would strengthen the skills and productivity of incumbent workers while building interest in precision manufacturing careers. This facility would also strengthen working relationships between academics, manufacturers, and others to spawn innovation and new businesses. Over time, the Hub will boost the competitiveness of the manufacturing base in the region, strengthen career paths for our residents, and help attract workers to improve an aging workforce.

I place my full support behind Monadnock Economic Development Corporation's grant application, and I hope you will give full consideration to this grant.

Sincerely,



Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress